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Agenda item 66 (a)
Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance: elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

Extract from the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 76th session (15 February-12 March 2010) and 77th session (2-27 August 2010) (Suppl. No. 18)

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Chapter XII
Working methods of the Committee

84. The working methods of the Committee are based on its Rules of Procedure, adopted in accordance with article 10 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, as amended,[9] and the Committee's established practice, as recorded in its relevant working papers and guidelines.[10]

85. At its seventy-sixth session, the Committee discussed its working methods and the need to improve its dialogue with States parties. The Committee decided that, instead of sending list of questions before the session, the Country Rapporteur will send to the State party concerned a short list of themes with a view to guiding and focusing the dialogue between the State party's delegation and the Committee during the consideration of the State party's report. Such a list of themes does not require written replies.

86. At its seventy-seventh session, the Committee further discussed its working methods and, in particular, possible ways and means of addressing its increasing workload. While noting with appreciation that the high workload of the Committee was a result of the improved reporting rate for periodic reports submitted by States parties, as well as the high number (173) of States parties to the Convention, the Committee expressed concern at the persisting backlog of reports awaiting consideration. Taking into account General Assembly resolution 63/243 of 24 December 2008 on the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which allows the Committee to meet for one additional week per session, with effect from August 2009 until 2011, and the large number of periodic reports of the States parties received recently, the Committee, having been advised of related financial implications, decided to request the General Assembly to approve one additional week of meeting time per session starting in 2012.

87. At its seventy-seventh session, on 3 August 2010, the Committee held an informal meeting with representatives of non-governmental organizations to discuss ways and means of strengthening cooperation. The Committee decided to have informal meetings with non-governmental organizations, at the beginning of each week of its sessions when States parties' reports are being discussed.

[9] Compilation of Rules of Procedure adopted by Human Rights Treaty Bodies (HRI/GEN/3/Rev.3).

[10] This includes in particular the overview of the methods of work of the Committee (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 18* (A/51/18), chap. IX); the working paper on working methods (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 18* (A/58/18), annex IV); the terms of reference for the work of the coordinator on follow-up to the Committee's observations and recommendation (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 18* (A/60/18), annex IV); and the guidelines for the Committee's early warning and urgent action procedure (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 18* (A/62/18), annex III).